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ROUGH WAYS

BURNT OUT

I started laying sod along the roof
  While the smoke thickened. Blown from tree to tree,
The fire came on. . . . At last I dropped the spade,
  And bitterly

I watched the timbers smolder and catch fire;
  Heard the flame chuckling at the work I'd done—
A pleasant mouthful! Even now I can't
  Quite see the fun.

BLIZZARD

All day the wind has sent along the trail
  A cry of battle. Now night falls again.
Swept through the dusk like horsemen spectral-pale,
  The charging snow-gusts spur across the plain.

Beneath their onslaught fades each wagon-mark.
  The winding road is captured. Mad to slay,
They thunder down upon me in the dark;
  They strike me, blind me—*I have lost the way!*

Kemper Hammond Broadus